

visit there clustered many legends
 which, as time
 went on, multiplied amazingly. Of
 these the most
 famous is that which is known as the
 Invention of the
 Cross. This, in its fullest form many
 centuries after
 the event, ran something as follows:
 When Helena
 reached Jerusalem she asked to
 be shown the
 Holy Sepulchre. But no one could
 tell her where
 the exact spot was. Buildings had
 been erected
 upon Mount Calvary and the
 adjoining land;
 temple of Venus was still standing
 near the place
 where the body of Christ must
 have been laid.
 Helena instituted a careful search, and
 the authority
 of the Emperor's mother would be
 warrant sufficient
 for the disturbance of the occupiers.
 At first the
 toil met with no success. Then a
 very clever Jew
 came forward with a story that he had
 heard of an
 old tradition that the site of the
 Sepulchre lay
 in such and such a spot; the direction
 of the excavation
 was entrusted to him; and the
 searchers were
 soon rewarded by finding not only the
 cave where
 Christ had lain, but also three
 crosses. These,
 was at once determined, must have
 been the crosses
 on which Christ and the two
 malefactors had suf-
 fered. But which had borne the
 Saviour? There
 was nothing to show, but so sacred an
 object was
 sure to be invested with wonder-
 working power
 and the test was, therefore, easy. So

they brought
to the spot a dying woman—according
to one version, she was already dead—and
touched her with
the wood of the three crosses. At
contact with the
first two no change was visible; but the
touch of the
third recalled her to sensibility and
perfect health.